

## OBITUARIES

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### OBITUARY

Elizabeth Anne Crowson, 1928-2006

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Generally known as Betty, Elizabeth Crowson (née Cambell) died on 13 February 2006 after a prolonged period of ill health. Originally from near Coatbridge, she attended Hamilton Academy where her interests in science, particularly in aspects relating to the rural environment were developed. She later entered the University of Glasgow where she studied Botany and Zoology graduating with 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours in 1951. In the Zoology Department she met the eminent Coleopterist, Roy Crowson and they were married in 1954. This proved to be a happy union which lasted until Roy's death in 1999.

Throughout their life, working together, with Betty concentrating on spiders and Roy on beetles, they produced impressive lists of species from various Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest and their works were published, either jointly or separately, with many papers appearing in *The Glasgow Naturalist*. Her interests were, however, much more general and she also published papers on fungi and Lepidoptera.

Both she and Roy joined the Glasgow Natural History Society simultaneously in 1951 and, after a short break in membership, rejoined in 1955 remaining on the roll for the rest of their lives. Until recently they both attended meetings and field excursions and in 1960 Betty was elected to Council and served as convenor to the Zoology Section until 1969. Betty was prominent in the Scottish Wildlife Trust. She joined as a Life Member in 1965, shortly after its inception, and was appointed Secretary of the Clyde Area Branch. In these early days she did much to promote the causes of the Trust by travelling to various rural institutes and other bodies at her own expense.

She taught biology for a time as an assistant lecturer at Stow College but later became a full lecturer at the Glasgow College of Technology (now Caledonian University), a post she held for 20 years. Although she never held a lecturing appointment at the University of Glasgow she played an important role as demonstrator in the now obsolete Medical Biology Classes and, sharing a room with Roy part-time, was able to pursue her natural history studies in an academic environment. During these studies she amassed a considerable collection of spiders the majority of which were donated to the Hunterian Museum (Zoology) at the University of Glasgow and the rest to the Natural History Museum in London.

In addition to her Natural History activities, Betty was also involved in politics and for some time was the Labour Councillor for the Dennistoun and Haghill wards of East Glasgow.

She was truly a lady of parts and will be missed by her relatives and her many friends and colleagues.

I am grateful to Betty's sister, Miss Jill Campbell, to Dr Kenneth Lockey, Mr Geoff Hancock, Dr Jack Gibson and Mr Richard Weddle for help in preparing this note.

Ronald M. Dobson

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### OBITUARY

Alexander Reid Hill, 1919-2006

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Dr Alexander Hill - Alex, as he was known to all his friends and colleagues - died peacefully on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October only a few days after celebrating his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday with his family. He was well known, particularly in agricultural and horticultural circles, as a distinguished entomologist who after entering St. Andrew's University in 1937 read Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology and Human Physiology. He was awarded Merit Certificates in each of these subjects and, in addition, University Medals in Zoology and Botany. He finally graduated in 1941 with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours Degree in Zoology. From 1941 to 1943 he was a Carnegie Research Scholar and from then until 1946 he was employed by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Food, where his duties involved checking various premises and ships associated with the food industry for pestilential insects and mites and formulating methods of their control.

From 1946 to 1949 he was a member of the staff of East Malling Research Station, first as a Scientific Officer and later as a Senior Scientific Officer. This involved collaborative work with plant pathologists in studies of viral diseases of the genus *Rubus* and of their insect vectors. This work was the basis of a thesis which led to his being awarded the degree of PhD in 1948.

In 1949 he was appointed as the first Lecturer (later as Senior Lecturer) in Agricultural Zoology at the University of Glasgow. His remit was to organise and teach courses in General and Agricultural Zoology for second year students and an Honours Course for the better students of agriculture. His teaching duties later involved organising a postgraduate Diploma course in Entomology (later upgraded to a Masters) and also had



responsibility for organising Advanced Ordinary Special and Honours Courses in pure Entomology for undergraduates.



**Photograph:** Alexander R. Hill.

In 1955 he was awarded both Kellogg Foundation and Carnegie Trust Travelling Scholarships to visit Canada and the United States. As a Visiting Professor on the Faculty of the University of California, Berkeley Campus, he worked on the North American species of the predatory *Anthocoris* bugs (Hemiptera, Heteroptera) and produced a key for their identification. In Canada he worked in the Department of Agriculture Virology Laboratory of Vancouver where he studied the bionomics of the North American aphid, *Amphoriphora rubi* (a virus vector) on European and American cultivars of the raspberry, *Rubus idaeus*. His results clearly indicated biological differences between British and North American strains of these aphids which have since been shown to be separate species. Subsequently his principal research developed in aspects of the biology of the five Scottish species of *Anthocoris*, especially in regard to diapause. These revealed hitherto unsuspected differences between northern and southern populations in the U.K. His interests later turned to the study of graminaceous aphids, in particular the important pest and virus vector, *Myzus persicae* in relation to their food plants.

In 1964 at the request of the Liaison Committee of the Royal Entomological Society and the Nature Conservancy he organised an insect survey of the Black Wood of Rannoch by staff and post-graduate students of the Glasgow University Zoology

Department. Results were reported to the Conservancy and some were published. His widespread interest in insects entailed the collection and preservation of numerous specimens and the bulk of these were donated to the Hunterian Museum (Zoology), Glasgow University, in 1998. A small number of specimens of his are in the University of Dundee from localities in that area dating from when he was a student. He acted as external examiner at several universities and his advice was sought by various committees concerned with biology and education. In 1958 he was elected to a fellowship of the prestigious Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Alex joined the Glasgow Natural History Society in 1951 and remained a member until the end of 2005. He served on Council as a Trustee from 1979 until 1986, lectured to the Society, published accounts in the journal of rare Hemiptera and of aphids at Rannoch, attended field meetings and demonstrated at exhibition meetings. Always modest, courteous and gentlemanly he will be greatly missed by many who knew him. His wife Mary Hill died shortly afterwards on 25 December, 2006, and the deepest sympathy is extended to both their families.

A list of publications by Alexander R. Hill:

- 1951. The blackberry leaf midge *Dasyneura plicatrix*: first record for Scotland. *Entomologist's monthly Magazine* 87: 34.
- 1951. Observations on *Lygus pabulinus*, a pest of raspberries in Scotland. *Annual Report East Malling Research Station*, 1951.
- 1952. The bionomics of *Lampronia rubiella* (Bjerkander), the raspberry moth, in Scotland. *Journal of Horticultural Science* 27(1): 1-13.
- 1952. A survey of the insects associated with cultivated raspberries in the east of Scotland. *Entomologist's monthly Magazine* 88: 51-62.
- 1952. Insect pests of cultivated raspberries in Scotland. *Transactions 9th International Congress of Entomology* 1: 489-512.
- 1953. Aphids associated with *Rubus* species in Scotland. *Entomologist's monthly Magazine* 89: 298-303.
- 1955. A bivalve cage for small arthropods. *Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society of London (A)* 30: 167-168.
- 1956 Observations on the North American form of *Amphorophora rubi* Kalt. (Homoptera, Aphididae). *Canadian Entomologist* 88: 89-91.
- 1957. Observations on the reproductive behaviour of *Amphorophora rubi* (Kalt with special reference to the phenomenon of insect resistance in raspberries. *Bulletin of Entomological Research* 48: 467-476.
- 1957. A key to the North American members of the genus *Anthocoris* Fallen. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 33: 171-174.
- 1957. The biology of *Anthocoris nemorum* (L.) in Scotland (Hemiptera: Anthocoridae). *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 109: 379-394.



1958. A new species of aphid from *Rubus parviflorus* Nutt. *Canadian Entomologist* 90: 672-674.
1961. The biology of *Anthocoris sarothamni* Douglas and Scott in Scotland (Hemiptera: Anthocoridae). *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 113: 41-54.
1965. The bionomics and ecology of *Anthocoris confusus* Reuter in Scotland. 1. The adult and egg production. *Transactions of the Society for British Entomology* 16: 245-256.
1966. Notes on rare Hemiptera. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 18: 446.
1973. Hawthorn shieldbug. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 19: 59.
1979. Aphidoidea at Rannoch. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 19: 495-497.

**E. Geoffrey Hancock  
Ronald M. Dobson**

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## OBITUARY

Jean Millar, 1932 – 2006

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Jean was one of four daughters of William and Elfreda Tindal and was born in London on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1932. She was a daughter of the manse and was brought up in Guernsey, Kilcreggan and Edinburgh. These moves meant seven different schools, in none of which she seems to have been particularly happy. Jean, surprisingly, was a rebellious child – putting the compulsory Sunday church hat on inside out, laying the places at the dinner table backwards. Having been brought up in a church-going family she caused quite a stir when she refused as a teenager to attend church. One member of her extended family has described her as having within her ‘a streak of controlled anarchy’. While that may have been true of her as a young girl, the Jean that we knew and loved was a very kind, considerate and compassionate woman, though she could be quite outspoken when she felt strongly about something.

After quite a turbulent period on leaving school, when she tried her hand at art, at nursing and at gardening, Jean finally settled to study Botany at the University of St. Andrews. From then on, she nurtured a constantly maturing passion for the environment.

While she never saw herself as an academic, she developed into one through her further studies at the University of Glasgow in Biological Chemistry and Ecology. She had many other pursuits. At the time I first met Jean, she was running a small nature reserve in the Gleniffer Braes. Both then, and later, when she moved with her husband, David, and family to Kilmacolm, she sought to help children to appreciate the natural environment, teaching ecological studies for a while for Renfrewshire County Council. At that time

she planted a small wood of native trees beside The Old Schoolhouse.

Because David was Chaplain to the University they were invited to live in The Chaplaincy at Number Eleven, The Square, and Jean, as a good Chaplain’s wife, entertained there after every service. This was enjoyed by very many regulars and by visitors and good relations were also maintained with the Roman Catholic Chaplains. Number Eleven was a particularly interesting house as it was where Lord Kelvin had lived, and his famous clock was kept in the entrance hall of the house. It was well looked after and was in good working order at the time that David and Jean lived there.

Jean joined the Glasgow Natural History Society in 1972 and was both Secretary and Vice President of the Society: she never agreed to become President, although she was asked to stand for this position. In 1988, Jean convened the Wild Flower Garden at the Glasgow Garden Festival. 1988 also was the year she and David moved to their house in Albert Drive, attracted especially by the garden, and the chance to rebuild a very fine conservatory. She had lots of fun creating her wild-flower meadow. Another of Jean’s interests was in planting trees and she planted an oak tree to commemorate the birth of many a new baby within the extended family connections.

She was a gifted artist, which she probably inherited from her paternal Grandmother. As a teenager, she apparently did clever pen and ink drawings of the family doings; later, after a one-year course at the Glasgow School of Art in the early 1980’s, she put her natural talent, and what she learnt there, to good use over the next two decades. She became a member of the Glasgow Society of Women Artists, and of the Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts. What she will probably be remembered for, most of all, were her beautiful and delicate flower paintings in which she combined her skill as an artist with her scientific knowledge. She was instrumental in setting up the Botanical Illustration Group at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. The Illustrated Herb Garden – first of a series of small books illustrating plants growing in the Gardens, was produced by this group and was published in May 2006. It contains a number of Jean’s paintings, one of which is on the front cover. When the Princess Royal came to visit Glasgow Jean gave the Princess her own painting of the Bonica Rose, which the Princess then presented to the grower, and when Princess Tomohito of Mikasa came to open the Rose Exhibition a few years ago, it was one of Jean’s lovely rose paintings that was selected to be presented to the Princess. Jean herself made the presentation; and those watching were intrigued at the way the brief conversation between Jean and the Japanese Princess resulted in a great burst of laughter from the royal lips. It seems that when the Princess asked Jean, ‘Are there any men working in this field?’ Jean’s straightforward, and I’m sure entirely accurate reply, was, ‘Men? Oh, they have no patience for this sort of thing!’